



## Christopher Janssen

MD + MPH

Hometown: Houston, TX

Undergraduate Institution: UC Berkeley

Undergraduate Degree: BS in Molecular & Environmental Biology

### Why do you want to be a physician?

I want to be a physician because it combines both science and humanity in a way that few other careers offer. I always loved learning how things worked as a young child and later I discovered my interest in teaching and educating people. Medicine offers a way to meet people where they are and help them on their road to health in ways that few other jobs can do.

### Why did you choose Texas A&M College of Medicine?

I chose Texas A&M University College of Medicine because of its location, as well as its collaborative and supportive atmosphere. Texas A&M and the broader Aggie Network provide me with opportunities to learn and work with a diverse array of people.

### Why did you choose to pursue a graduate degree in addition to the MD?

I chose to pursue a graduate degree in addition to the MD because of my interest in understanding the social and environmental determinants of health. As an undergrad I studied environmental biology and had a chance to do some very fascinating research involving African Americans with Asthma in

Houston. I learned that many of our research participants faced barriers and challenges to controlling their asthma that went far beyond clinical care. I feel that where someone lives and how they behave often plays a very significant role in their health and health outcomes. By studying public health, I hope to adopt an interdisciplinary focus that will allow me to become a more effective physician and public health practitioner.

### What are your career goals and how do you feel the MD Plus Program will help you?

Right now I feel drawn towards internal medicine but I am aware that my preferences may change further down the road. I believe the MD Plus Program will help me become a more effective physician who can help both people, populations, and perhaps even society at a broader level. I hope to also work in the field of public health through research or leadership in addition to being a physician.